

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY/NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION IS CONDUCTING A FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE GENERAL
SERVICES AREA OPERABLE UNIT AT LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL
LABORATORY'S SITE 300

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) /National Nuclear Security Administration has begun the third Five-Year Review of its environmental cleanup of the General Services Area Operable Unit at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL) Site 300.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

Superfund law requires that the protectiveness of cleanup actions be evaluated every five years when contaminants remain at the site above levels that allow unrestricted access. The purpose of the Five-Year Review is to evaluate the progress of the cleanup remedy towards achieving the Site's cleanup objectives, and whether the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

The Five-Year Review report summarizes the nature and extent of contamination and describes DOE's progress in cleaning up the General Services Area. DOE's draft Five-Year Review report for the General Services Area Operable Unit is now available to the public at the LLNL Environmental Repository in the Tracy Public Library, 20 East Eaton Avenue, Tracy, CA 95377 [tel. (209) 835-2221]; the LLNL Discovery Center, Greenville Road at East Gate Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, [tel. (925) 422-4599]; and online at <http://www-envirinfo.llnl.gov/>. Upon completion of the review, a copy of the final report will be placed in the information repositories listed above and a notice will appear in the Tracy Press and San Joaquin Herald newspapers announcing the completion of the Five-Year Review Report.

SITE HISTORY

LLNL's Site 300 is a U.S. DOE experimental test facility operated by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC. Site 300 is used for the research, development, and testing of high explosive materials. Site 300 is located in the Altamont Hills between Livermore and Tracy, California. Site 300 was placed on the National Priorities List in 1992. A Record of Decision for the General Services Area was signed in 1997 established cleanup remedies and cleanup standards. Previous Five-Year Reviews were completed in 2001 and 2006. The General Services Area includes craft shops, storage buildings, and offices that support the research being conducted at Site 300. Solvents containing volatile organic compounds were commonly used as degreasing agents in craft shops. Rinse water from these operations was disposed of in dry wells (gravel-filled pits). The dry wells were used until 1982 and were all excavated in 1983 to 1984. In addition, various types of debris were disposed of in debris burial trenches during the 1960s and 1970s. Volatile organic compounds have been released to the environment from past operations.

CLEANUP OBJECTIVE

The selected remedy for the General Services Area Operable Unit includes, (1) monitoring ground water to evaluate the effectiveness of the remedy in achieving cleanup standards, and to ensure there is no impact to down-gradient water-supply wells, (2) institutional controls, such as access/land-use restrictions and measures to prevent use of contaminated ground water, and

(3) extracting and treating VOCs in soil vapor and ground water to prevent further impacts to ground water and offsite plume migration, and reduce contaminant concentrations in soil and ground water to cleanup levels. The remedy at the General Services Area Operable Unit is expected to be protective of human health and the environment upon completion (i.e., when cleanup standards are achieved) for the site's industrial land use. The cleanup standards for ground water are drinking water standards. Because drinking water standards do not differentiate between industrial and residential use, the ground water cleanup remedy will be protective under any land use scenario upon completion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For further information, please contact:

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